

Appl. No. 09/699,517
Response Dated December 8, 2004
Reply to non-final Office Action of September 8, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the actual time set in the computer is the same as the scheduled event time.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 42, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the actual time set in the computer has reached a time prior to the scheduled event time.

Claims 19-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 35, wherein the computer input device is a track-mouse device.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The system of claim 52, wherein the computer input device is a track-mouse device.

Claim 35 (new): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

- (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
- (b) communicating with a computer input device having an illumination member to cause the illumination member to change states in response to the determining step,

wherein said communicating step includes causing the illumination member to change intensity.

Claim 36 (new): The computer-readable-medium of claim 35, the method further comprising a step of (c) establishing a set of senders, wherein said determining step includes determining whether a sender of an incoming message is in the set.

Claim 37 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

- (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred;
- (b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step; and
- (c) establishing a set of senders,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether a sender of an incoming message is in the set.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 37, wherein said determining step includes determining whether at least one incoming message has been received.

Claim 39 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

- (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
- (b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether an instant message has been received.

Claim 40 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

(a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
(b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether a request to respond to one of a video conference call and an audio conference call has been received.

Claim 41 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

(a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
(b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether a user is capable of receiving a solicitation.

Claim 42 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

(a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
(b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes comparing a scheduled event time relative to an actual time set in the computer.

Claim 43 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

(a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
(b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether a correct answer has been input.

Claim 44 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

- (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
- (b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,
wherein said determining step includes determining one of a state, a characteristic, and a condition relating to a character in a game program.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 44, wherein said determining step includes determining whether the character is within a given proximity of an object.

Claim 46 (new): The method of claim 44, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change states in a manner corresponding to a number of lives remaining for the character.

Claim 47 (new): The method of claim 44, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change states in a manner corresponding to an amount of a supply for the character.

Claim 48 (new): The method of claim 44, wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change states in a manner corresponding to the character entering an area in the game program.

Claim 49 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

- (a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and
- (b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said changing step includes causing the illumination member to change intensity.

Claim 50 (new): A method for controlling an illumination member on a computer input device, said method comprising:

(a) determining, in a computer, whether a predetermined event has occurred; and

(b) changing a state associated with the illumination member in response to the determination step,

wherein said determining step includes determining whether a request to respond to a solicitation to join a chat room has been received.